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EPA
OFFICE
ADM



Regional Administrator
US EPA
230 S. Dearborn
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Adamkus,

Greenpeace is very concerned about the discovery of 2,3,7,8 TCDD, Chlordane and other banned pesticides on the property of Riverdale Chemical Co, Chicago Heights. Since the EPA has had the test results since April, we feel the EPA has erred in not moving more rapidly to fully test the area and clean up a very contaminated site. The health risk to the area remains a question as long as adequate testing is withheld.

We are making the following recommendations to alleviate the most dangerous threats:

1. The community should receive immediate and full public disclosure of what is known of the site. Precautions should be taken to guard the health of the community, including soil tests from nearby residences and health testing.

2. The area known to be contaminated should be contained within a 10' chain link fence, warnings should be posted (including symbol signs for children) and the area should be patrolled.

3. The area of suspected contamination behind the plant should be tested. If it is contaminated, it too should be fenced. Tests should be taken at all points around the plant until a ring of negative results is obtained, in order to determine the extent of horizontal contamination.

4. The groundwater beneath the plant should be tested to determine whether the contaminants have leached into the aquifer.

5. Air samples should be taken to determine at what level the chemicals are volatilizing into the environment.

6. Plans should be announced for the ultimate disposal of the dioxin and other chemicals.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this serious matter.
Sincerely,

Judy Freeman

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